

A LAND OF PROMISE AND FULFILMENT

The Vermilion District of Alberta

THE VERMILION BOARD OF TRADE, VERMILION, ALBERTA

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Authorized by

The Town Council of Vermilion

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CAMPBELL LAKE, VERMILION DISTRICT.



IF YOU tired of city life,
ARE tired of working for others,
dissatisfied with the farm and prospects you now have,

or, better still, if you have a dash of that ambition and restlessness that has made the American and British people pioneers everywhere read the few pages following. They may help you to a decision. We aim to tell you in an unexaggerated way, supported by Government statistics and the letters of people now in the country, the claim of the VERMILION DISTRICT OF ALBERTA to be a country whose natural resources guarantee a sure return for honest work, that has already markets and railroad facilities an older country might envy, a country that offers to the man of small means a good livelihood while he works and the certainty that the property he acquires will steadily grow in value. If you would like to bring up your family in a healthful climate, among English speaking people, sharing the best of educational and social advantages the VERMILION DISTRICT has all these inducements to offer

ITS GEOGRAPHY.

The Vermilion District lies between the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway on the South, the North Saskatchewan River on the north; Birch Lake marks its western extremity and the Provincial boundary limits it on the east. The Vermilion and Battle Rivers run through it from east to west and the trunk

line of the Canadian Northern Railway runs through its whole length. The country varies from a level open prairie to a rolling country broken with poplar and willow bluffs, while occasional spruce trees dot the river banks.

Regarding its SOIL, B. W. Shaw, of the "Orange Judd Farmer," says:

"If I were to single out any large tract of land uniformly good I would say that such an area can best be found along the line of the Canadian Northern Railway north-west from Winnipeg. In all my experience I do not know of any other body of land on the face of the globe of the same extent containing so large a percentage of high class wheat land."

ITS HISTORY.

Five years ago a few ranchers and isolated farmers had this territory to themselves, then came the railroad surveyors. With the surveyors homesteaders poured in and when the Canadian Northern Railway finished steel laying from Winnipeg to Edmonton in November 1905 a beginning had been made of a community that has grown rapidly and steadily ever since.

WOOD, WATER AND COAL. Important matters everyone of them, and no wise man locates without knowing what the new country has to offer in these respects. The Vermilion District is exceptionally favored. Good water is everywhere found at a depth of from twelve to twenty feet and we have yet to hear of a farmer giving up his land here through difficulty in finding water.



THE VALLEY AT VERMILION.



The poplar and willow bluffs scattered through the district everywhere easily furnish the wood needed for fuel, for fencing and for farm outbuildings; along our northern boundary portable sawmills are turning the spruce into good building material. Vermilion is on the edge of the Edmonton coal field containing **THE BIGGEST KNOWN DEPOSIT OF COAL IN THE WORLD**. Worked under Government regulation, no trust controls these mines, ensuring to the settler a cheap supply of fuel as wood becomes scarcer.

AS A PLACE TO LIVE IN. We have the Courts usual to a civilized land and, in addition, the country is patrolled by the Royal North West Mounted Police, enforcing a strict regard for order and justice. Churches are keeping pace with the growth of population. Alberta opened a new country school for every working day of the year just past. There are 26 schools within 20 miles of Vermilion and eleven under construction at date of writing, May, 1910. That all spells **DEVELOPMENT** and a people confident of their country laying a good foundation. The Provincial Government owns and operates the telephone system; under their encouragement it is reaching out among the farmers, keeping them in constant touch with conditions everywhere, all done at a minimum expense. The farmer pays two taxes, his school tax running from 5 to 10 cents per acre, and his road tax of 5 to 8 cents per acre. The latter is generally worked out.

THE VERMILION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY is an active body, constantly working to better agriculture in our district. Liberally helped

by the Provincial Government its Annual Fair, year after year, shows a bigger and better display of live stock and farm produce.

THE RAINFALL is amply sufficient. The greater part of the rainfall is in the four months beginning in late May and ending in August. For the last four years the Government records give an average annual rainfall of 20.58 inches in this District.

GRAIN GROWING

For any extended discussion of the causes of Alberta's phenomenal rise as a grain growing country we would respectfully refer the reader to any of the pamphlets on the subject issued by the Provincial Government to be obtained free from any Canadian immigration agent. SPRING WHEAT has been grown successfully for over twenty years; the people in the country are evidently satisfied as to its fitness as a grain growing country.

Note the progress of Alberta's Spring Wheat in these figures—

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
In 1900	42,582	783,135
In 1906	140,432	3,740,656
In 1909	230,000	5,877,486

In average production per acre Alberta leads Minnesota, its nearest competitor, nearly four bushels per acre. Alberta's advantages in wheat growing are found at their best in the VERMILION DISTRICT. Government Crop Bulletin No. 6 of 1909, pp. 20 to 24, discussing big yields the Minister of Agri-



GRAIN CUTTING, VERMILION DISTRICT.



culture gives VERMILION DISTRICT the banner with a sworn record of 41 farmers showing an average yield of 46.74 bushels of spring wheat to the acre.

WINTER WHEAT is a newer crop in Alberta. These figures show the place Alberta's winter wheat is taking:

	<i>Area</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
In 1900		
In 1906	83,498	2,191,611
In 1909	104,956	3,093,422

At the recent Farming Congress at Billings, Montana, "Alberta Red" winter wheat took first place for winter grain. VERMILION'S place in the province is shown by the fact that at the Provincial Seed Fair held at Edmonton in February 1910, a sample of winter wheat grown 12 miles north of Vermilion by Mr. Jos. P. Killon was awarded FIRST PRIZE. This in competition with the whole province. Every year the wheat growing belt moves further north. There are flour mills 500 miles north of Vermilion. We are not on the fringe by any means, but far enough north to give the grain that quality that by a law of nature seems to accompany growth on the northern boundary of possible production. Other crops are crowding wheat out in the south while the demand for the grain steadily grows. Nothing is surer than that there is a great future for the wheat grower in this district. The townspeople of Vermilion show their confidence by the erection of a flour mill with a capacity of 125 barrels per day.

OTHER GRAINS

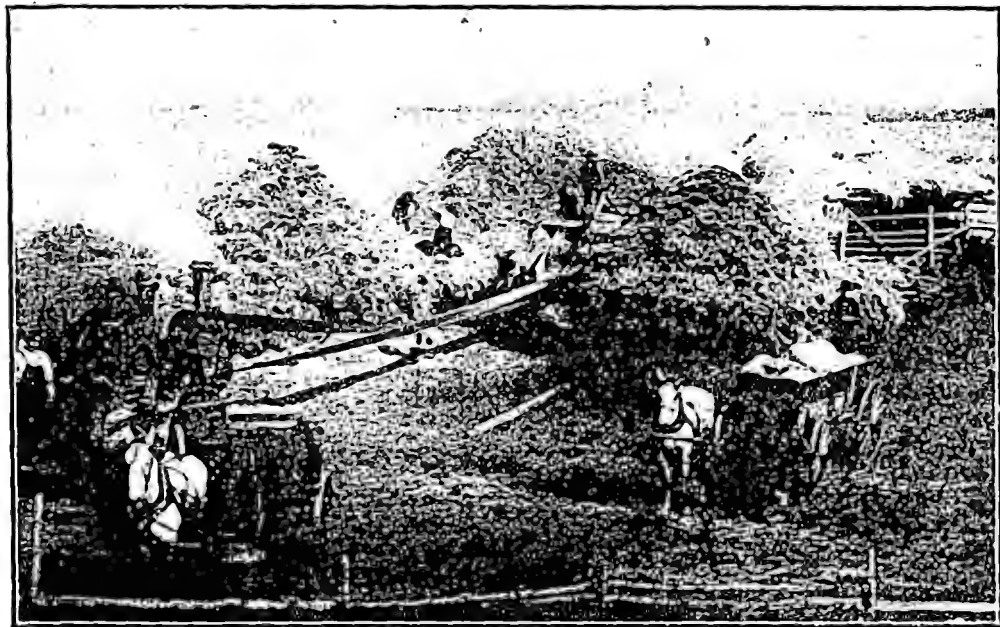
Alberta oats famed for their weight and quantity of yield need no commendation here. BARLEY and FLAX are successfully and profitably grown and in all these grains the VERMILION DISTRICT betters the Province's average yield per acre. Alberta's average yield of barley, 40 bushels per acre, compares favorably with Minnesota's 26 bushels, at the same time its high quality makes it eagerly sought after by brewers on both sides of the line. Two transcontinental railroads compete in furnishing transportation. Grain is all graded under government inspection, and the competition of flour mills, elevators and track buyers insures the farmer a fair deal and the best price.

Mr. A. W. Roseborough of Vermilion writes:

Every year in the past three years I have grown Red Fyfe wheat on my farm three miles west of Vermilion. Last year my wheat graded No. 1 Northern, my fifty acres yielding 33½ bushels to the acre. Success in wheat in this district I consider entirely dependent on the farmer himself as in twenty years farming I have not seen a district better adapted to wheat growing. Other grains do well, my neighbor, David Winters, has got over 100 bushels to the acre from oats.

Mr. W. A. Connelly of Vermilion, writes:

"I came to the Vermilion District from Pontiac County, Quebec, six years ago. My second year I got in 70 acres of oats which brought me 73 bushels



THRASHING SCENE, VERMILION DISTRICT.





to the acre. I have been threshing three years in this district and the increase in area and yield has been splendid. For nine neighbors, all on homesteads, in 1908, I threshed 3,480 bushels while last fall I threshed over 17,000 bushels for the same people. I can safely say the acreage sown is doubling every year in my immediate neighborhood. I am keeping 159 cattle now and find it a most profitable line.

Bear in mind that Alberta, bigger than any State in the Union, save Texas, has ARABLE LAND to the extent of 100,000,000 acres and of this in 1909 only 942,000 acres were in crop, a little less than one acre in a hundred.

STOCK RAISING.

As a stock raising country the Vermilion district is second to none. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs are all raised with great success. Last year 200 cars of cattle and hogs were shipped from the Vermilion stock yards, and this in the district's infancy. Stimulated by the advance in prices of the past year or two the industry is going ahead by leaps and bounds. The miles of pasture carpeted with an abundance of nutrient grasses, clover, peas and vetches only await men and capital to make them wonderfully profitable. Most cattle raised in the district range outdoors the whole year round, a straw stack, an open shed or a clump of brush being the only winter shelter they get. Many of our farmers owning only one-quarter section of land are raising from 30

to 100 head of cattle. If pasture on the farmer's own place is insufficient he simply turns to the vacant unfenced lands of the government or land companies or speculators to find their grazing, the owner usually getting the little hay he needs for their winter feed from the wild grasses on his own farm.

Mr W. J. Rutherford of Vermilion.,

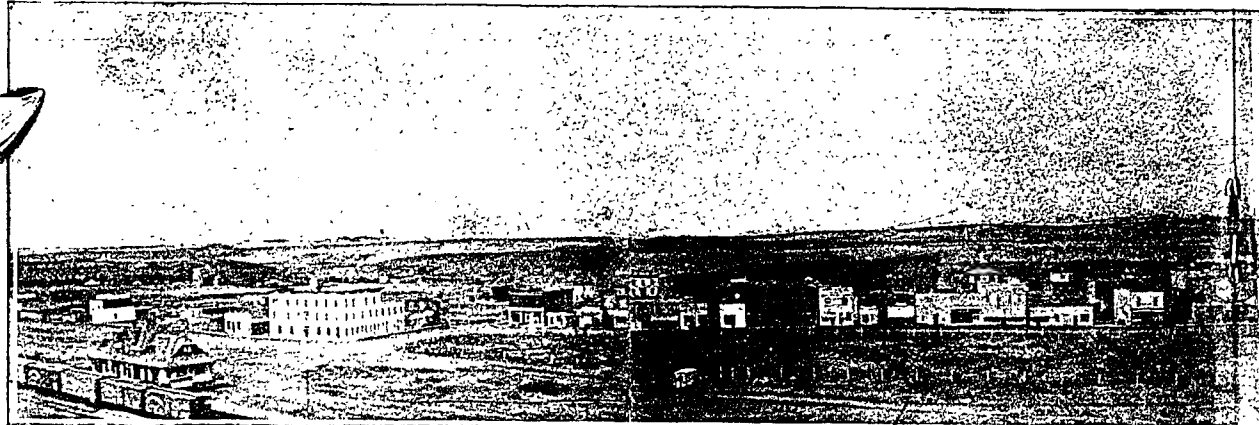
I came to this country some twelve years ago and engaged in cattle ranching. Without any shelter, except for late calves I have wintered from 150 to 200 head of cattle. In the spring I have sold four-year-old steers in prime beef condition weighing from twelve to sixteen hundred weight, that had fattened during the winter on nothing but wild hay.

HOGS. Nowhere was the lift in hog prices more welcomed than by the Albertan farmer. It has meant a lot of money to him. Five cents per pound is an outside estimate of the cost of raising hogs in this district and with hogs at the present price of 9½ cents the farmer is able to add substantially to his bank account every time he sells. There is no hog cholera in this country. Alberta is still unable to supply the demand for hog products from its north and the mining and lumbering towns of British Columbia.

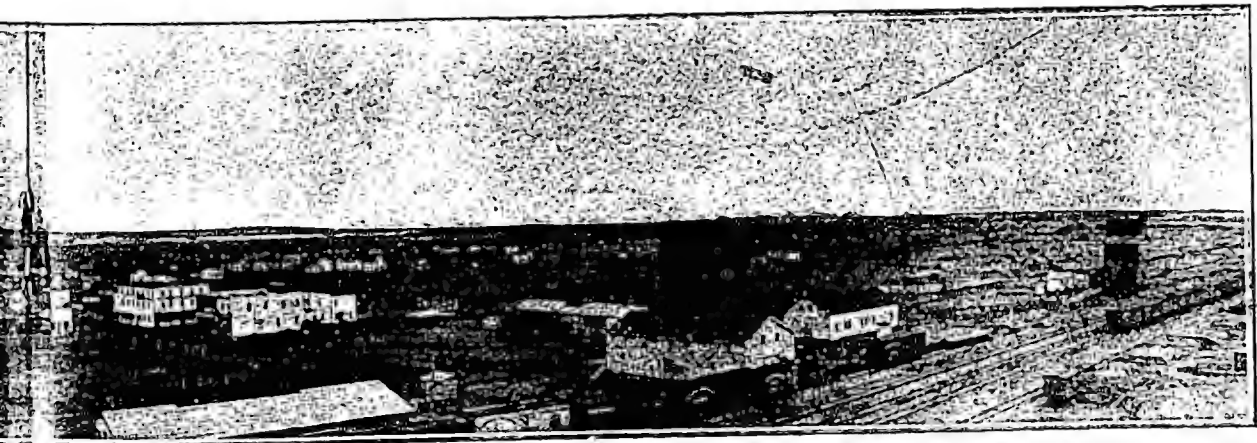
SHEEP A beginning has been made in sheep raising to which the district is admirably adapted. Hunt Bros., of Mannville, write:

"We began sheep raising three years ago with ten, we have now over 400 and are satisfied that our sheep bring us a return of one hundred per cent. We find that our sheep are in excellent shape for market profit after their





TOWN OF



RMILTON



summer's grazing in late November when freeze-up comes and that for winter feed a little wild hay is sufficient. We have no trouble from coyotes or other pests.

HORSES are a very profitable line and will be for years to come. The influx of new settlers with their needs in the way of horses to work their lands, the demand from railroad construction camps and other works in progress have used up the country's surplus of horses and make a certain market for the future. In the breeding of purebred and grade horses our district offers an excellent field to anyone with the capital and experience needed.

Plenty of pasture, cheap winter fodder, pure water and a widening market conspire to keep alive the Vermilion farmer's interest in stock raising and every year sees additions to the number profitably disposing of their coarse grains in winter-fattening cattle. Less than two years ago the Griffin Co. built at Edmonton, a packing plant with a daily capacity of 1,000 hogs, 400 cattle and 500 sheep; already they are building to double their cold storage. Winnipeg, Chicago and Montreal all compete for our cattle. The Provincial Government has under consideration ways and means of encouraging an export trade in chilled beef and already has voted aid to Farmer's Co-operative hog curing plants.

During the twenty years, 1880 to 1900, the population of the United States increased 52 per cent. while the number of beef cattle increased only 29.5 per cent, the number of milch cows 35 per cent. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson

is authority for the statement that in the ten years, 1900 to the present, the number of cattle has been stationary while population has increased 20 per cent

IF YOU WISH TO SHARE IN THE PROFITABLE BUSINESS OF SUPPLYING THIS WORLD SHORTAGE IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS A FARM IN THE VERMILION DISTRICT WILL BEST HELP YOU TO DO IT.

MIXED FARMING.

The country that has shown its ability to grow grain and to raise stock successfully has proven its claim to be a good MIXED FARMING country. Alberta has done both and the VERMILION District is the equal of any in the Province in both these respects. Scarce a farmer in the district but diversifies his farming. As fast as new ground is brought into cultivation more hogs, more dairy cattle, more beef cattle and more horses are bought, and more lines of roots and cereals grown,—all helping a continuance of that stability and steady growth that has marked our farming industry.

ALL VEGETABLE and SMALL FRUITS do well, yields are heavy and find a ready market. TIMOTHY HAY, ALFALFA and all the cultivated grasses are grown successfully.

This year a number of gasoline and steam plows are at work with results that will tell in the production of coming years.



SHIPMENT OF RANGE FED CATTLE.



DAIRYING. There is a fully equipped government controlled creamery in Vermilion. The industry is new but will no doubt prove here, as it has done in other parts of the Province, a profitable branch of farming. *BUTTER* brings from 17 to 38 cents a pound according to season and quality. *TURKEYS* *GEESE*. *DUCKS* and *FOWL* are all raised extensively and offer a sure income to any one wishing to specialize along these lines. *EGGS* bring from 20 cents in midsummer to 45 and 50 cents a dozen in winter.


Mr. J. V. Greenwood, of Islay, writes:

"I sowed 32 acres of White Garton oats and raised 3,768 bushels, averaging about 118 bushels an acre and weighing 44½ lbs. to the bushel. I have not tried to raise much wheat on my farm but I have threshed a great deal for my neighbors which ran from 36 to 42 bushels per acre. I have also threshed barley which ran from 40 to 60 bushels to the acre.

"I have very good water on my farm, one well is 14 feet deep and the other is 24 feet deep. The climate out here is much better in winter than in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts or other places I have been, it being more even. "

SPORT.

An Autumn day's shooting in the Vermilion district is a pleasure no sportsman who has enjoyed it is likely to forget. To anyone with a taste for the shot gun or rifle the Vermilion district is a paradise. Twice a year the great flocks



of wild geese linger a few weeks on their migrations, all summer every lake, slough and waterhole teems with wild ducks, a score of varieties, all vying with one another in beauty of plumage and in the more material merits as "table birds." Prairie chicken are plentiful all over the district and give the sportsman interesting sport. A day's journey north will put the rifle shot into a country where the elk and moose are still plentiful. The larger streams and lakes abound in jackfish and pickerel, trout are found in many of the lakes. Caught by the settler and stored during the winter months they furnish a supply of good food at a little cost in labor, or they may be bought in town at from 5 to 7 cents a pound.

The game laws, framed to protect the game while giving to the man on the ground every opportunity for good sport, are well enforced and ensure a continuance of the abundance of game now enjoyed, for many years to come.

CAPITAL.

In a new country it is a matter of some importance that sufficient capital be available to enable the farmer wishing to add to his live stock, his buildings or his land, to borrow at reasonable rates. This Alberta has.

There is no more gratifying tribute to the country's solid worth than the way in which Britain, Europe and the United States have poured millions of dollars into the country seeking permanent farm-loans. Eight per cent. is



HAYING SCENE SOUTH OF VERMILION.



the maximum rate for such loans. For the farmer's temporary needs the country's admirable banking system meets all reasonable requirements.

In conclusion, the whole Canadian West is entering into a period of growth and prosperity that will make the advances of past years, great as they have been, seem small. You could not be better placed to share this prosperity than in the Vermilion District. While the natural resources, markets and transportation facilities are already there, LAND IS CHEAP. Prices range from \$8 to \$20 per acre, varying with location and improvements. Several land companies have large blocks of wild land for sale and partially improved farms, with buildings, can be bought very reasonably. As in every other district a good many homesteads in the Vermilion District were taken up by people who were not farmers and who had no intention of making farming their permanent occupation, however they have complied with the conditions necessary to obtain title to free government lands and are now willing to dispose of their homesteads. THIS OFFERS TO BUYERS ACTING NOW a good chance to get a farm that must rapidly rise in value without the hardships of pioneering, house building and the other drawbacks of the first settler.

HOMESTEADS.

There are still a few good homesteads in the remoter parts of the district to be had under the regulations governing Free Government Homesteads.

We can refer you to satisfied settlers from nearly every part of the civilized world. If you wish your present location compared with the Vermilion District we can put you in communication with people competent to do it. For information as to business openings or the district's farms and farming, the Secretary of the Vermilion Board of Trade will gladly answer your enquiries

IF YOU HAVE -

Money and seek an investment.

no other capital than your brains and two hands.

see the Vermilion District before locating elsewhere. It is a country yearly making good the promise it held out to its pioneers of four years ago.

What one satisfied land buyer says:

"Vermilion, 18th April, 1910.

"VERMILION BOARD OF TRADE

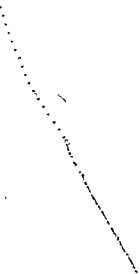
SIRS, "Here is my experience grain growing in the Vermilion District. Last June I bought the Kelly farm about ten miles from Vermilion for \$2,700. It had then 90 acres under crop. From it I sold 2014 bushels of wheat at 83 cents a bushel, Vermilion, for one carload and 80 cents for the other in November, and got 750 bushels of oats and 300 bushels of potatoes besides, in all a cash return of \$1,965. That figures out pretty nearly a free farm for me. I have 200 acres in crop this spring and only wish I had twice as much.

(Signed) W. B. McALPIN



A DAY'S SHOOT, VERMILION.



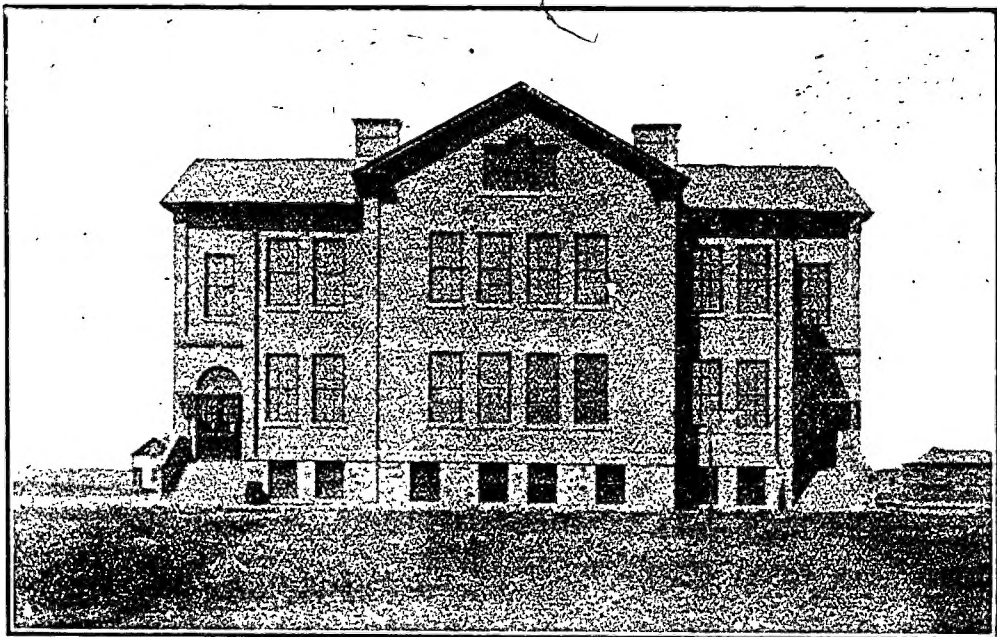


THE TOWN OF VERMILION.

It is only four years since the first shack was moved onto the present town-site of Vermilion and already the population is nearing the one thousand mark. Situated on the Vermilion River it is a divisional point on the main line of the Canadian Northern Railway and has the railroad workshops usual to such a position on a trunk line. It has a handsome brick school erected at a cost of \$40,000, an electric lighting plant, grain elevator, flour mill, creamery and a government Immigration Hall. The Provincial Government will shortly begin the erection of a Court House. The town has five churches, a weekly newspaper, a branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and an energetic body of merchants equipped to do business.

Beautifully situated, it is a good town to live in and shows every sign of continuing its past rapid growth.





ALEXANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, VERMILION.